



SF 359 – Statewide Writing Assessment (LSB1261SV)

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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

Senate File 359 requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules establishing a statewide writing assessment for students in grades 3, 6 and 10. The Bill describes the purposes of the assessment and requires school districts to administer the assessment to all students in the three grades that are also administered the regular statewide assessments in reading, mathematics, and science. Districts are required to begin administering the assessments in grade 10 in FY 2013 and in grades 3 and 6 in FY 2014, but may choose to administer them earlier if the Department of Education makes the materials available earlier.

The Bill specifies a collaborative process for developing the assessment and requires the Department to collect and report data resulting from the assessment in the annual Condition of Education report. The Bill amends the statute that describes the goals for teacher professional development to include preparation for the statewide writing assessment.

Background

The State of Iowa receives federal funding for assessment expenditures as part of the No Child Left Behind Act. The Department of Education retains a portion of this funding and passes the remainder to local districts. In FY 2009, the State's federal assessment funding totals \$5.3 million. The Department is not required to pass along any of that funding to local school districts but has chosen to do so. In FY 2009, local school districts received a total of \$3.1 million in federal funds for administration of assessments and other related activities. The allocation was based on the FY 2007 enrollment at a rate of \$6.50 per student.

The Department has indicated that federal assessment dollars will be used at the State level to cover the cost of developing, administering, and scoring the statewide sampling of the writing assessment. The local school districts can also use these federal dollars for the costs of scoring the writing assessment.

Assumptions

1. Development of the assessment, administration guides, training materials, and field testing will cost \$250,000 in FY 2010 and FY 2011.
2. The assessment will be administered to an estimated 36,356 students in each of the three grade levels annually.
3. The Department will annually sample 15,000 assessments (5,000 in each grade level) at a cost of \$12 each. The sampling will begin in FY 2013 with 5,000 assessments from grade 10 and increase to 15,000 from all three grades in FY 2014.
4. School districts will score all the assessments locally at a cost of \$9 each. The scoring will begin in FY 2013 with 36,356 assessments from grade 10 and increase to 109,068 from all three grades in FY 2014.

Fiscal Impact

The State level cost of SF 359 will be \$250,000 over a two-year period beginning in FY 2010, \$60,000 in FY 2013, and \$180,000 annually beginning in FY 2014. These costs will be funded from federal assessment monies.

The statewide cost to local school districts will be \$327,304 in FY 2013 and \$981,612 annually beginning in FY 2014. The districts may use federal assessment monies to pay this cost.

Sources

Department of Education

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 12, 2009

The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the correctional and minority impact statements were prepared pursuant to [Section 2.56, Code of Iowa](#). Data used in developing this fiscal note, including correctional and minority impact information, is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
